

20 July 2016

Mr. Paul Chan, MH, JP
Secretary for Development
Development Bureau
18/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Paul Chan, MH, JP,

Two Arboricultural Practitioners Charged by ICAC with Bribery

Two arboricultural practitioners accredited under the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects' Accredited Arboricultural Practitioner Scheme (HKILA's AAP), Mr. Sum Yu Hin (accreditation no. AAP018) and Mr. Lau Siu Yeung (accreditation no. AAP008), were charged by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) with bribery of conspiracy for accepting illegal commissions.

Details of the case per press release from ICAC:

http://www.icac.org.hk/en/pr/index_uid_1839.html

Mr. Sum was pleaded guilty in the Eastern Magistracy on 7th July 2016, while Mr. Lau had his case adjourned to 28th July 2016.

This case has been brought to the attention of the HKILA Arboricultural Practitioner's Accreditation Vetting Panel (the Panel).

The subject of the offence is considered by the Panel directly related to the duty of their works as arboricultural practitioners and in breach of the *Code of Ethics and Conduct for Arboricultural Practitioners under HKILA Accredited List (the Code)*, in particular paragraph 3 and 6 under the Code (attached for reference). The Panel decided to suspend with immediate effect the accreditation status of Mr. Sum and Mr. Lau and delist them from the *List of HKILA Accredited Arboricultural Practitioners*. An inquiry committee nominated by the Panel and appointed by HKILA Council is formulated to carry out an inquiry in the case, with the following personnel:

Mr. S C LO (vice-president of HKILA, member of HKILA AAP Vetting Panel)

Mr. Paul CHOW (council member of HKILA, member of HKILA AAP Vetting Panel)

Mr. Ken SO (external advisor of HKILA AAP Vetting Panel)

The inquiry committee is entrusted by HKILA to conduct proceedings and investigation, and provide recommendation to this Panel and HKILA Council on the resolution. We shall announce the updates in due course.

We understand that there are various alternative qualifications other than the accreditation under the HKILA AAP Scheme accepted by the government to practice as arborist in Hong Kong. We urge the government in stepping up the control of the arboricultural practice and HKILA shall be pleased to continue to offer our support in doing so.

Yours sincerely,



Tak Wong
President
Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects